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EVERYBODY FAILED

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TRUMP TO MEET FBI DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

1 President Donald Trump on Wednesday will interview four candidates for the position of director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters. Spicer, who was aboard Air Force One with Trump, said the president would meet with acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, former Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman and former senior FBI official Richard McFeely. The position was left vacant after Trump fired James Comey.

REUTERS

ISIS MINING MOSUL TO STOP FLEEING FAMILIES

2 Islamic State militants are planting bombs near front doors in Mosul to prevent civilians leaving, as Iraqi forces make their final push against the jihadists after months of fighting. Trapped in a shrinking area of the city, the militants are using the several hundred thousand civilians under their control as human shields to avoid being targeted or perhaps tarnish what Iraqi leaders describe as imminent victory. Backed by a U.S.-led coalition, Iraqi forces have made gains since opening a new front in northwest Mosul this month and have now dislodged Islamic State from all but about 5 square miles of the city. The militants still control the Old City, where they are expected to make their last stand in the densely populated, narrow streets that are impassible for armored vehicles, forcing Iraqi forces to advance on foot. REUTERS

PUTIN OFFERS TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

3 Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that U.S. President Donald Trump had not divulged any secrets during a meeting in Washington with Russian officials and offered to prove it by supplying Congress with a transcript. But a leading U.S. Republican politician said he would have little faith in any notes Putin might supply. Two U.S. officials said on Monday Trump had disclosed classified information about a planned Islamic State operation to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov when they met last week, plunging the White House into a fresh controversy just four months into Trump's tenure. Trump has defended his decision to discuss intelligence with the Russians. REUTERS

DC PHOTOS

4 (Left) Dan Scavino Jr., White House director of social media, right, speaks with Sean Spicer, White House press secretary, outside the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., on Wednesday.

(Right) House Democrats display a photograph of President Donald Trump welcoming Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to the White House during a news conference at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in Washington, DC.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GOOGLE CHALLENGES APPLE'S SIRI

5 Alphabet Inc's Google said on Wednesday it would make its digital assistant available on Apple Inc's iPhone, making a play for the higher end of the smartphone market and challenging Apple's Siri feature on its own devices. The announcement heralds a step by Google, whose Android system runs on the majority of the world's smartphones, to get a foothold on Apple's phones, which have smaller market share but are used by people who tend to spend more on technology. It comes as Google, Apple and Amazon.com Inc are competing to establish the dominant voice-powered digital assistant, which many in the industry believe will supplant keyboards and touch screens as a primary way that users interact with technology.

REUTERS

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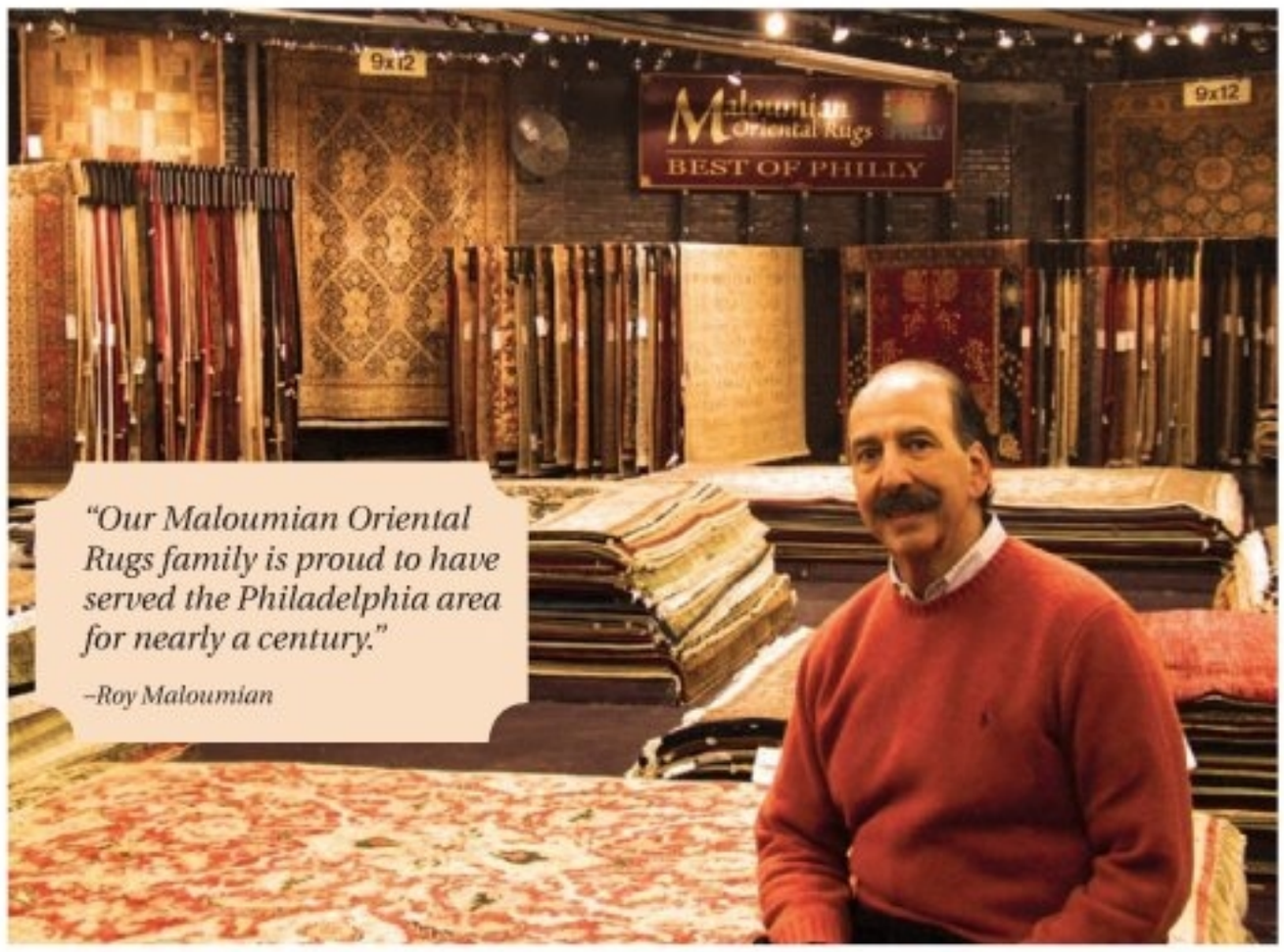
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Lawyer Nadeem Bear photographed outside his Center City Philadelphia law office, May 17, 2017. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Lawyer targets foster care agency over 10-year-old's death

Lawyer Nadeem Bezar is preparing to sue a foster care agency over the death of 10-year-old Ethan Okula.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

There are a lot of tragic stories about foster care children who slip through the cracks.

But 10-year-old Ethan Okula isn't one of them. He was surrounded by his supposed caretakers on the day he died, none of whom got him the medical attention that could have saved his life.

"Everybody failed Ethan. Everybody," said attorney Nadeem Bezar, who is representing Ethan's family. "I don't think I've ever seen failure at every level like this."

Ethan Okula died at age 10. PROVIDED

In February 2016, Ethan fell ill at his North Philly elementary school. He was brought to his foster home that afternoon. By evening, he had stopped breathing. The cause of death was later determined to be an intestinal blockage.

Bezar, an attorney who specializes in child abuse and welfare cases at Kline & Specter, is in the early stages of a negligence action against Northeast Treatment Centers (NET), the agency that placed Ethan, who had a gastric condition, with a foster mother who "did not seem fully knowledgeable about Ethan's service needs," according to a state Department of Human Services report on his death.

NET declined to comment on the case due to the litigation. "Our hearts remain heavy over the tragic death of Ethan Okula," a spokeswoman said.

Bezar claims NET placed Ethan with a foster mother not properly trained in addressing his medical needs. He is also investigating possible misconduct by school district employees who released Ethan to the foster mother's friend before he died.

"Nobody at the school called 911," Bezar said, "and the school, I believe, knew that this friend of the foster mother was not going to take Ethan to a hospital."

On the last day of his life, Ethan began complaining of severe stomach pain to his teacher. He couldn't walk, and he vomited and defecated on himself, according to the state report.

Before medical issues led to his death, Ethan reportedly suffered years of abuse, including being beaten by his father and at one point locked outside by previous foster parents. Nonetheless, the child was known to have a joyful personality.

"He was a sweet boy who had been through a lot," Bezar said. "His foster care mother has claimed she didn't know about his medical background. With all of that, how is an estranged little boy supposed to survive?"

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Defense and civil rights lawyer Larry Krasner, who won the Democratic primary for DA, responded to criticisms at a news conference Wednesday. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Krasner lays out vision for office after winning DA's primary

Controversial candidate for Philly's top prosecutor addresses criticism at first news conference.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Larry Krasner, Democratic candidate for district attorney, addressed reporters on Wednesday afternoon to discuss his hopes if elected and to address a recent backlash that bubbled up within 12 hours of the criminal defense attorney's primary victory.

"It will be an office that is very much oriented toward understanding justice in a holistic, global, broad sense, as opposed to a narrow, blindered sense," Krasner said when asked how he'd run the office. "We won't be reckless with the taxpayers' money, throwing it down the hole of mass incarceration rather than putting it into the things that actually prevent crime, like public education, like job training, like treatment for people who suffer from a medical condition known as addiction."

The longtime defense attorney was asked about comments that John McNesby, president of the police union, FOP Lodge 5, made to the Philadelphia Daily News after Krasner was declared winner.

Calling Krasner's supporters who were videotaped chanting "F— the FOP" at his victory party "parasites of the city" and suggesting that Philadelphia police officers pull their cars to the side of the road and "don't do a damn thing," McNesby claimed that Krasner would "be catastrophic to the department and the community as a whole."

On Wednesday, Krasner balked at that allegation, even suggesting that, by hinting that officers should not perform their jobs, McNesby was advocating a criminal dereliction of duty.

"It's irresponsible to suggest that law enforcement officers, who are paid by taxpayers, would not do what they are required and ordered to do by the police commissioner, but would still be taking home their paychecks – that's just a strange thing to say," he said. "But, I do understand that people get upset, and they say some pretty peculiar things when their candidates do not win, but that doesn't concern me at all. I do not believe that this police force has been hijacked by any group that can tell them not to do their jobs."

He pointed out that the union isn't in command of the police, and instead, Krasner said he's already had conversations with the man who is: Police Commissioner Richard Ross. Krasner called Ross "a genuinely progressive, forward-thinking commissioner," and he looks forward to working with Ross if elected.

In a report on the reaction that prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office have had to Krasner's primary victory, the Philadelphia Daily News said "many of its 600 employees were dismayed by [Krasner's] platform."

But Krasner told reporters that he didn't believe that was the case and said that many employees in that office called to congratulate him.

"There are really good people in that office, and really good people in that office want things to be better there," he said. "They want to seek justice just as I ran for district attorney to seek justice, and in that sense, we have a ton in common."

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Clients enjoying ManiCare services. PROVIDED

Dr. Feelgood: One woman's hospital experience led to mobile nail-care business

Entrepreneur behind ManiCare brings a salon to women who can't get to one by themselves.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Kate Arian isn't just a woman who does nails.

Her company, ManiCare, does give manicures and pedicures to the hospitalized and homebound, but the New Jersey native and former marketing executive for L'Oreal found a circuitous route to nail-care entrepreneurialism.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 2011, her cystic fibrosis (CF) required a double lung transplant, with a long recovery afterward. While hospitalized, she found that care for women beyond the medical – feeling beautiful, tending to one's daily regimen – went out the window. With that need in mind, she started ManiCare in 2015 and never looked back. Based in Manhattan, the traveling salon now offers its services in Philly, Boston, across the East Coast and in Cleveland and Chicago.

Q: How long after your surgeries did you stew before starting ManiCare?

A: I had the idea for ManiCare while recovering from surgery, but I did actually go on to hold two corporate jobs before becoming the full-time founder and CEO. I had the ManiCare website up, though, within a month of returning home in post-transplant mode in 2011.

Q: Are you used to pampering yourself, and what did not having those amenities in the hospital do to your spirit?

A: [Laughs] I have a "fancy disposition" my mom says. I have always relished a nice outfit, jewelry and beauty treatments. Feeling and looking your personal best is a very empowering and motivating thing. It can restore dignity and humanity. Sometimes, unfortunately, it's all you can do for someone who is very ill.

Q: You give a portion of your proceeds to various charities. Have you ever been attached to any charitable endeavor before this?

A: My parents run a charity to help patients with CF and their families afford medical care not covered by insurance and/or lifestyle costs associated with their medical burdens. I was taught from a young age about giving back – both from my family and at my Jewish day school – and throughout all of my own challenges, I was always aware that there were those less fortunate.

Q: What is the age range of those who use your services?

A: Our younger demographic is the new and expecting mothers who like our services while on bed rest or in the hospital after birth – 35 to 55 is probably the most common age range. We also have many elderly users – the oldest recurring clients are 97 and 100.

Q: What is your personal motto when it comes to all this?

A: Face life with a little guts and a lot of glitter … and when "I" is replaced by "we," even "illness" becomes "wellness."

To learn more about ManiCare services, visit mani-care.com.

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John McCain compares Trump/Russia scandal to Watergate as investigation grows

The Senate's cranky grandpa and former GOP presidential candidate goes there, as the ground shifts in the unfolding drama.

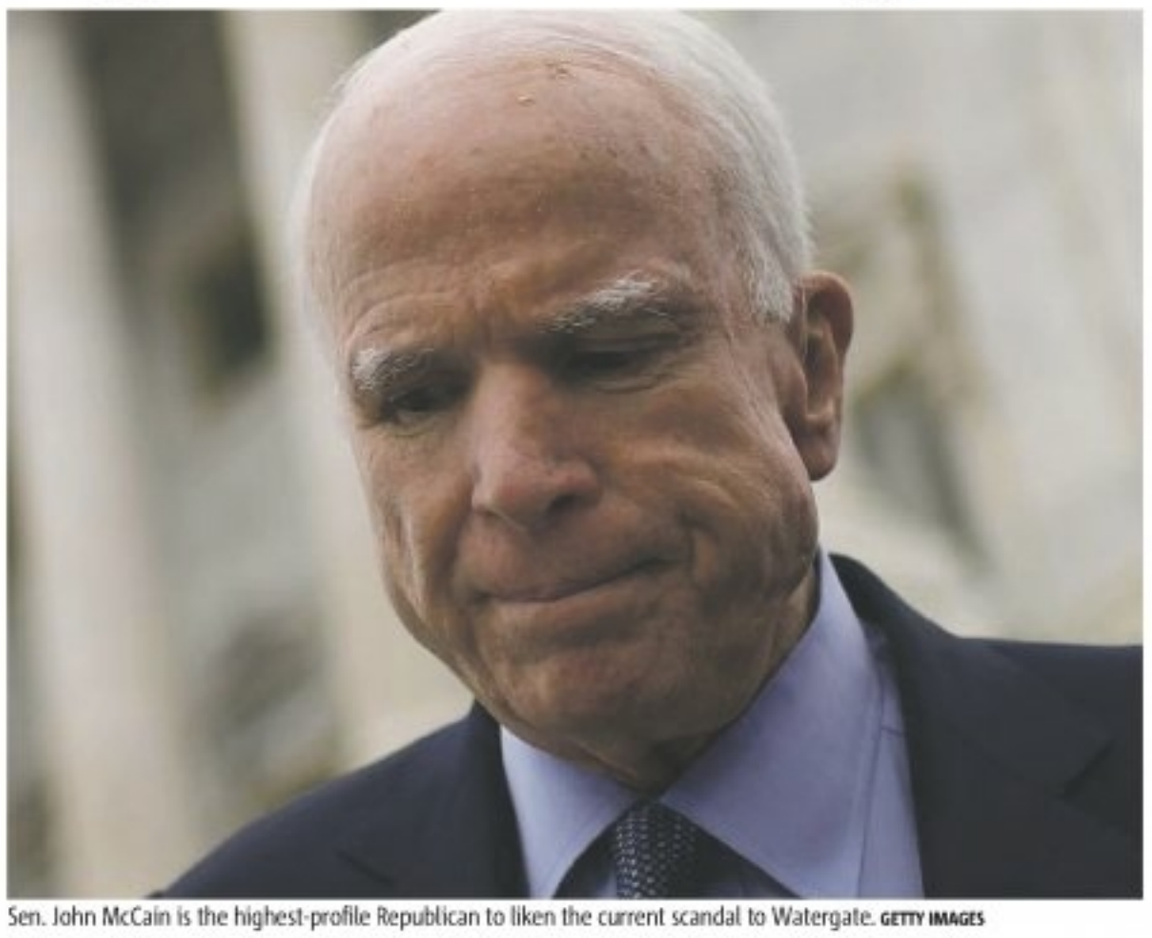
MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

On Tuesday, Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, said the word that no Republican had yet dared to speak in connection with the unfolding Trump/Russia controversy: Watergate.

At an event in D.C., McCain said the drama emanating from Trump has reached "Watergate size and scale." He added, "This is not good for the country."

McCain — who is burnishing his reputation as a straight-shooting stalwart — spoke up after a New York Times story revealed that Trump allegedly pressured FBI Director James Comey to abandon an investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. Comey kept a memo of the February meeting. Trump fired Comey last week, raising the spectre that the president committed obstruction of justice by trying to impede the FBI's investigation into ties between his presidential campaign and Russia.

McCain is the highest-profile Republican to criticize the president in this way. Rep. Justin Amash, R-Michigan, was the first GOP member to raise the prospect of impeachment. Asked by The Hill if Comey's memo would warrant impeachment if true, Amash said, "Yes." He added, "But everybody gets a fair trial in this country." At a reporter's prodding, Amash said he had "more confidence in" Comey than Trump.



Sen. John McCain is the highest-profile Republican to liken the current scandal to Watergate. GETTY IMAGES

Democrats, meanwhile, have started to use the word "impeachment" themselves. Rep. Al Green, D-Texas, called for Trump's impeachment on the House floor. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, has not been reticent to use the term and has been rewarded with memes as a result. Maine's Sen. Angus King, an independent, has floated the prospect.

Although they did not use the "I" or "W" words, several Democrats — led by House intelligence committee members Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell — held a news conference calling for an independent commission to investigate the Trump/Russia matter. On Wednesday afternoon, former FBI Director Robert Mueller was appointed to oversee such an inquiry.

Also on Wednesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan said he had confidence in Trump, but there are reports that the ground is shifting as of the latest Times story, with more Republicans calling for an investigation.

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Former FBI director appointed as special counsel in Russia probe

Robert Mueller will lead an investigation into foreign government's "efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election, and related matters," the Department of Justice said.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
@KimESTAqui
kimberly.aquilina@metro.us

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller will oversee the growing investigation into possible ties between the Trump administration and Russia. GETTY IMAGES

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller on Wednesday as special counsel overseeing the investigation into Russia's potential collusion with the Trump campaign.

"I determined that it is in the public interest for me to exercise my authority and appoint a special counsel to assume responsibility for this matter," Rosenstein said in a statement. "My decision is not a finding that crimes have been committed or that any prosecution is warranted. I have made no such determination."

The move followed rising demands for an independent probe of alleged Russian efforts to sway the outcome of November's presidential election in favor of Donald Trump and against Hillary Clinton.

Pressure has been building on Trump over the Russia issue since his firing last week of FBI chief James Comey, who had been leading a federal probe into the matter.

The FBI, the CIA and other agencies have been looking into evidence of possible contacts, money transfers and business relationships between Trump's associates, like former National Security Adviser Mike Flynn, and Russia. The investigation will also examine how Russian intelligence propagated fake news and leaked hacked emails that some say could have cost Clinton the election, NBC reported.

U.S. intelligence agencies said earlier this year that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

"I determined that a special counsel is necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome," Rosenstein said.

Mueller would ultimately answer to Rosenstein, who answers to President Trump, but Mueller will enjoy an independence that an attorney general would not.

Rosenstein inherited the task after Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself.

Mueller is second only to J. Edgar Hoover for longest tenure for a director of the FBI. Mueller headed the bureau for 12 years under presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Reuters contributed to this report.

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US immigration arrests up nearly 40 percent under President Trump

That increase is a result of recent guidance given by Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly to implement Trump's executive orders on interior immigration enforcement and border security signed on Jan. 25.

U.S. arrests of suspected illegal immigrants rose by nearly 40 percent in the first 100 days of Donald Trump's presidency, following executive orders that broadened the scope of who could be targeted for immigration violations, according to government data released on Wednesday.

The acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Thomas Homan said that arrests by his agency jumped to 41,318 between January 22 of this year and the end of April, up from 30,028 arrests in roughly the same period last year.

Of those arrested almost two-thirds had criminal convictions. But there was also a significant jump - of more than 150 percent - in the number of immigrants not convicted of further crimes arrested by ICE: 10,800 since the beginning of the year compared to 4,200 non-criminal arrests in the same period in 2016.

"Those that enter the country illegally, they do violate the law, that is a criminal act," Homan said on the call, while emphasizing that immigrants who pose a threat to national security or have criminal records are still a priority for the agency.

He said ICE will continue to target people who have been issued a final order of removal by an immigration judge even if they have not committed another crime.

"When a federal judge makes a decision and issues an order that order needs to mean something," Homan said. "If we don't take action on those orders, then we are just spinning our wheels."

While President Barack Obama was also criticized for deporting a large number of immigrants, most of them were recent border crossers apprehended entering the country illegally. REUTERS

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RALLYING THE REPUBLICANS

TOM FOREMAN

Opinion

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

When Democrats talk to Republicans here in D.C., they rarely use gentle tones. The bitter feud between the two major parties was made no better by the vicious 2016 election and the Democrats' electoral collapse. Accordingly, ever since Inauguration Day, Dems have flung relentless curses at their political opponents — even if decorum has kept most of the profanity muted.

But now from Capitol Hill to K Street, an unexpectedly gentler call is echoing. It is faint, but day by day more congressional Democrats are pleading with any Republicans who will listen: Help us.

Help with what, you say? The Dems want help getting a net around the Trump administration and this whole nasty mess about the Russians meddling in the election. They want GOPers to join their campaign for an independent counsel to oversee the FBI investigation. They want their colleagues across the aisle to let the president know he will effectively be a man without a party if he does not cooperate with the probe. In short, in political terms, they want the moon and the stars.

And they might — just might — get it.

With each new revelation (and denial by Team Trump) you can feel the tremors rattling through Republicanland. Sure, they enjoy holding the House of Representatives, the Senate and the White House, and they know that gives their party immense power. But they also know the punishment from voters could be extremely damaging if they are perceived to be helping cover up some screwy cloak-and-dagger scheme.

Mind you, I said, "perceived." We have no proof yet that the Trump group, writ large, did anything wrong. But the drumbeat for a fair, open and thorough investigation is getting louder and could soon be deafening — drowning out all attempts by the president or his party to talk about anything else. And let's face it, President Trump has not exactly charmed his own party's rank and file.

Given those circumstances, yeah — some Republicans are showing some inclination to listen to the Democratic pleas. And if enough do, this storm may not easily pass the White House — but could rage and rage.

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Rejoice: Taylor Swift has found a new victim

In recent months, if you listened ever so slightly, head bowed toward the Earth's center, you could hear the wind whispering, "Where TF is Taylor Swift?"

The pop star has been laying relatively low in the last year. But not anymore! The "Style" singer is making a comeback to the spotlight — but only because she has a new British boyfriend now. Classic her!

The Sun reports that Swift has been secretly dating Joe Alwyn, a 26-year-old actor, for several months.

Alwyn is a rising star in the film industry who still lives with his parents. And 'cause Tay Tay does the most, she has taken to wearing a variety of disguises when she sees him to avoid being identified by the media. I'm talking scarves, hats, and wigs.

A close friend of Swift confirmed the relationship, saying, "This isn't a new-couple alert or a secret relationship… she and Joe decided early on to keep their private life private." Seems like a novel concept for Swift, but what do I know?

the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Jennifer Lawrence will not apologize for dancing on that stripper pole

As one of Hollywood's Cool Girls, Jennifer Lawrence is very hashtag-relatable. Stars, they're just like us! Except they're not burdened with crippling debt and an eczema patch that refuses to go away.

Now, she's dancing on a stripper pole and refusing to apologize for having a good time.

Radar Online published a video of the 26-year-old hanging at the Beverly Hills Club in Vienna, Austria, where she's filming "Red Sparrow." In the video, Lawrence reportedly dances with a man and then bumps and/or grinds on a stripper pole. God forbid a woman goes out and has fun.

Anyway, the "Mother" star quickly offered her side of the story via Facebook.

"Nobody wants to be reminded that they tried to dance on a stripper pole by the internet. It was one of my best friends' birthdays and I dropped my paranoia guard for one second to have fun. I'm not going to apologize, I had a BLAST that night."

I think the most shocking part of this is that J.Law took to Facebook to address the faux controversy. Like, who uses Facebook anymore?

Girls just wanna have fun, ya know?
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes consider going public

Are y'all ready for this?

Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes are out gallivanting in Paris right now because maybe, just maybe, they're ready to make their romance public.

Us Weekly has the exclusive story of a man named Jamie and a woman named Katie who fell in love four years ago and found a romance for the ages. What was meant to be a flirty summer fling turned into something more, and Katie just can't bear to hide it anymore!

The 38-year-old is now ready to tell the world that she's Jamie's girl. "She's tired of playing this hiding game," says a source. "She's head-over-heels for him."

Since early May, she's been in Paris, where Foxx, 49, is filming a "Robin Hood" remake. Because if there's anything we need more than another King Arthur movie, it's another Robin Hood flick.

"[They] plan to start going public. She gushes about how amazing he is," the source says. "She says she loves him from the tips of her toes to the top of her head." Step aside, Wordsworth, this is some dang poetry!

Here's your requisite update on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

If you're wondering what the engagement prospects are for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, keep your bet firmly set to, "Well, maybe!"

According to The Mirror and the Daily Express, there's a delicious rumor going 'round that the Hot Ginger Prince has been granted the permission to pop the question. "The way it's going, the engagement will probably happen this year," a source says. "Harry has got approval from the queen to propose to Meghan. ... An engagement is imminent."

So yeah, looks like things are still very serious between these two, in case you were wondering. They've been having a great time, OK?

This weekend, she'll be joining Harry at Pippa Middleton's wedding to James Matthews. And while I'm not saying I hope that these two steal the show — I mean, that would be rude — I also wouldn't mind if they did.

I beseech the queen to get with the program.

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

On the gay sex scene on 'American Gods'

A sex scene between Salim (Omid Abtahi) and the Jinn (Mousa Kraish) has become the center of some great discussions recently. STARZ

Many articles have been written about the gay sex scene in the third episode of "American Gods." I just wanted to add my two cents.

My two cents, by the way, are coming from a straight white woman, and should be taken in that context. My horse in this race is connected to the way women vs. men are portrayed in sex scenes. I'll leave it to those who in the LGBTQ and Middle Eastern communities to make the incredibly important points about how this scene, between characters Salim (Omid Abtahi) and the Jinn (Mousa Kraish), affects them. All I can add with any authority is the angle that affects me: equal opportunity nudity.

Showrunner Bryan Fuller spoke about how Starz required equal opportunity nudity in shows like "Spartacus," and "Power." One wouldn't think this should be a radical thing, but the way sex has been portrayed throughout the history of television (and film and video games, etc.), it is.

If you ever wanted evidence that most entertainment is focused on the straight-male gaze, just consider any series that shows nudity. "Game of Thrones"? When it has male nudity, it's usually to show that part of the body suffering some sort of harm. Then look again at how so many scenes feature naked women just as background decoration. Nudity is fine, in my book; the way it's focused almost exclusively on pleasing straight men is not.

Go ahead and put your favorite films or TV shows to this test. Whose nudity did you see? I'm not talking about butts here. Whose actual naughty bits were put on display? How often is it the woman completely naked but not the man?

We're told, as women, that our bodies are objects and the straight-male gaze is far more important than our own. We're told we aren't supposed to want to see these things, but it's fine because guys do and we're here to please them. That Starz has taken this step to acknowledge that straight white men are not the only people who appreciate sexuality and want to see their own represented, is encouraging.

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Carol Kane on the hopeful world of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"

Why the legend thinks season 3 is the best yet.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The upcoming season of Tina Fey's hit "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" (back this Friday) will take on Kimmy's matriculation to college, Titus' reflection on his career and romances and — hold up. Lillian is running for office?

We spoke to Carol Kane, who plays kooky free spirit Lillian, about how the brilliantly funny series balances an upbeat outlook with serious issues, and what's in store for our favorite stoop crone.

I really love Lillian because she is so strange but really endearing. What is it that attracts you to these kooky characters?

A big thing about Lillian is her passion, what she believes in she'll just go to the ground for. She'll do anything. And also her lack of being able to edit herself [laughs]. Whatever she thinks comes out her mouth. She's very brave. She doesn't really care what anybody thinks of what she says or does. I admire that about her. I'm much more self-conscious about what I say or do than Lillian.

GETTY

The gentrification story line last season was subtle but powerful. And the show does a really good job of balancing being funny with bringing awareness around an issue.

And that is going to get enhanced this year, because at the end of last season someone came to [Lillian's] door and said, "If it really means that much to you, why don't you run for office?" And I'm taking that on. I do run for office, so my fight against gentrification becomes more official and louder. I also meet a special someone through that fight. I meet a sort of archenemy who becomes a beloved person in my life.

In the third season of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," Carol Kane's Lillian gets political. NETFLIX

The show never reveals what part of New York its taking place in exactly. But you film in Brooklyn right?

We film in Brooklyn, and I think that gentrification is huge in the city. When I was young and growing up in the city, every neighborhood was so specific and had its little community that was very well-defined, and now you get on the subway at 72nd on the West Side and you go all the way down to SoHo and you get off the subway and you see the exact same bank and the exact same store as when you got on the subway. Used to be you got off and you were in Wonderland. It was all very different and specific, and I really miss that.

There's a lot of positivity that's depicted. The show features a much more hopeful New York than the one that exists in this current political climate.

It's hard to have a lot of hope right now. But you know, people are fighting. People are fighting for their rights and always will be. Each individual voice is critical, especially now. And I do think that Lillian demonstrates that, and Kimmy and Titus and even [Jacqueline] are having a whole new life since she broke up with her rich guy. She's on her own and making something of her life, against great odds. Everyone in the show is sort of hopeful against great odds. And they're all fighters.

Season three of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" premieres May 19 on Netflix.

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FringeA-Thon is the party you shouldn't miss this weekend

things to do

Get your groove on at Penn's Landing.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

FringeArts hosts a 12-hour dance party this weekend at Penn's Landing: FringeA-Thon. On Saturday, May 20, the Blue Cross RiverRink will turn into a giant dance floor in support of the local arts scene. All proceeds go to FringeArts and several other organizations that help the Philly arts community thrive. Sign up with a team to raise funds dancing, or buy individual tickets to just enjoy the party.

Cosmo Baker is one of several DJs playing the event, with styles ranging from salsa to soul and hip-hop to drum and bass. There will be something for everyone, and that's what keeps partiers going.

"All of us are going in a little bit blind," says Baker. "There isn't a definitive crowd of 'our' folks. There will probably be a lot of people who may not be aware of who we are as DJs. Ultimately, this makes us step our craft up."

It's hard to keep everyone on the dance floor for the entire FringeA-Thon. Although participants are encouraged to stay for several hours and dance their hearts out, the DJs have shorter sets in order to make sure they can keep the party going. Friendly competition between the DJs is inevitable, and that benefits everyone at the end.

There will also be several professional dancers at the event to keep the energy high on the dance floor. Confirmed troupes include blues boogying Powerhouse Blues, swing dancers Jazz Attack and acrobatic Hula-Hoopers Philadelphia Spin Coalition — quite the motley crew.

Cosmo Baker is a renowned DJ. PROVIDED

Luckily, embracing different musical styles is what Baker does best as a DJ, and the FringeA-Thon is the perfect event for that. Known for sets that make you expect the unexpected, he can go from remixing Neil Young to the latest dance hit without missing a beat. So what does he have planned for his FringeA-Thon? Like most of his performances, he plans on freestyling his way through it. Baker likes the challenge of reading the room to see what the audience needs to keep it going.

"I love the idea that it's this spontaneous method of expression and creation," says Baker. "You're creating it right there for that moment in time."

When in doubt, more than 20 years of experience has taught him one trick he keeps up his sleeve.

"The right Prince or Michael Jackson record never hurts," he says.

If you go

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Get ready for a Twin Peak-end

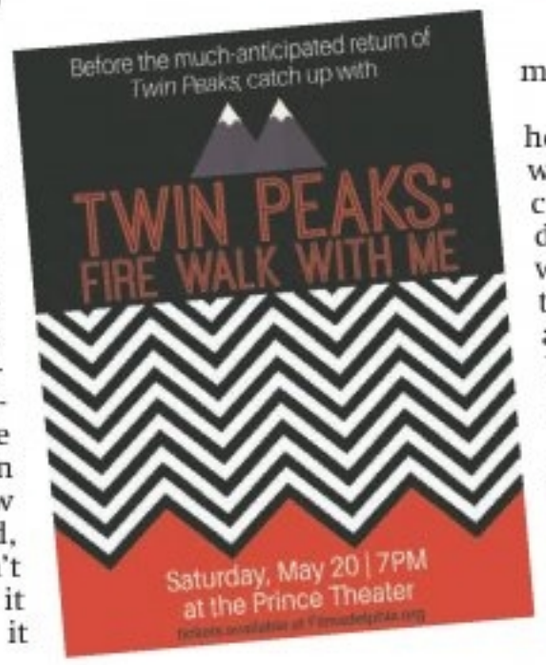
Sheryl Lee will revive her role as Laura Palmer in the new series. PROVIDED

Celebrate the continuation of cult series at these special events.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Forget binge watching "Twin Peaks" by yourself before the start of the series revival Sunday night. Dig out your best flannel, acid-washed denim or vintage cop costume to celebrate the cult hit in (vintage) style.

Start the weekend with Riot Nerd's Black Lodge Dance Party at the Barbary on Friday. Owner and DJ John Redden will set the mood with a dark wave set. Think music from the original show, but more dance-y. Redden watched the show when it first aired, but says he didn't really appreciate it until rewatching it much later.


Before the much-anticipated return of Twin Peaks, catch up with
TWIN PEAKS: FIRE WALK WITH ME
Saturday, May 20 | 7PM
at the Prince Theater

"I didn't realize how influential it was when it first came out," says Redden. "I think it was way ahead of its time. Everything about it was really bizarre and unsettling."

Fast-forward 27 years, and people are celebrating its return. The dance party will get going with Redden's selection of spooky

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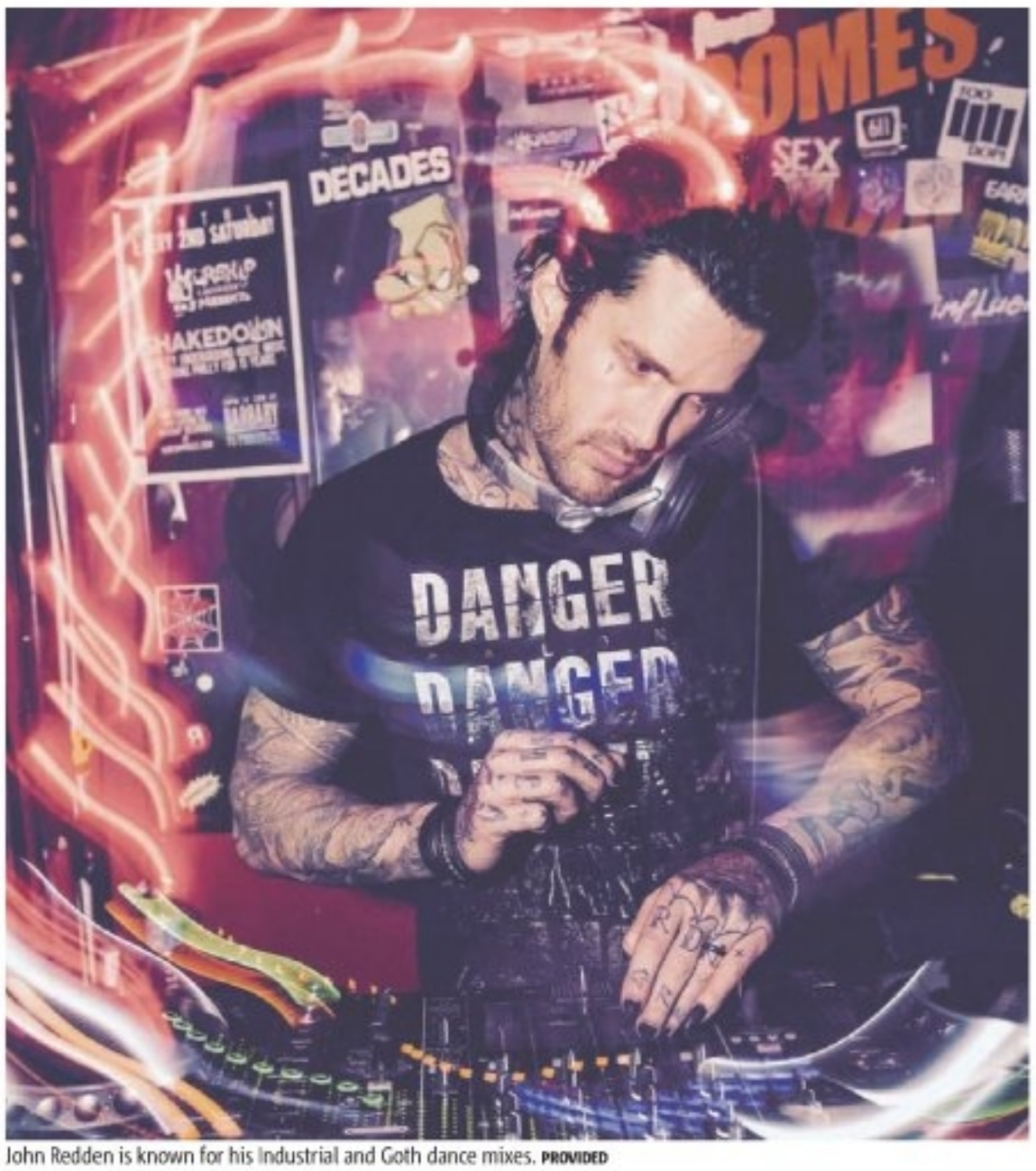

John Redden is known for his Industrial and Goth dance mixes. PROVIDED

(yet groovy) music.

"I'm going for dark and minimal '80s," says Redden. "I want it to feel very mysterious."

When you aren't dancing, enjoy a fine-cup-of-coffee stout paired with a doughnut from Federal Donuts. Although costumes aren't required, you should definitely test drive your best '80s Pacific Northwest getup before heading to Saturday's film screening.

The Philadelphia Film Society will show "Fire: Walk With Me," David Lynch's prequel to the series that tells the story of Laura Palmer's last seven days. There will also be a costume contest and plenty of photo opportunities in the Red Room. (Keep an eye out for Agent Cooper's plate of pie!)

PFS Marketing Manager Kait Calabro says that the PFS staff loves the original show and wanted to find ways to take a screening to the next level.

"I think we were all surprised at how much Philly loves 'Twin Peaks,'" says Calabro. "The film is great to watch with a crowd because of how funny and melodramatic it is."

The show's revival on Showtime is a testament to how popular it has become since it aired in 1990. Despite the first season's high ratings, it was canceled after season two. But it's getting another chance, and it seems like fans new and old are ready for it.

"Now there are a lot more people who are thirsting for things that are weird and different," says Redden.

The new "Twin Peaks" series premieres on Showtime at 9 p.m. this Sunday.

If you go:

Black Lodge Dance Party
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BEER GARDENS

Parks On Tap Opening Weekend

Philly's mobile beer garden returns this week, bringing boozy delights and delicious nibbles to parks around Philly every weekend now till October. The first stop is the stunning Azalea Garden located between Boathouse Row and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Partake in the site's culinary delights while also soaking up some of its floral ones. The garden boasts 150 species of azaleas and rhododendrons, and a variety of daffodils, irises, crocuses and tulips, to boot. **Through May 21**
The Azalea Garden, Kelly Drive and Fairmount Avenue, Pay as you go
parksontap.com

BEER GARDENS

Brews & Views

The Parkway Central Library opens its pop-up rooftop bar located on the venue's lofty Skyline Terrace. Called Brews & Views, the site is open every Thursday now through June 29 from 5 to 9 p.m., and features craft beer, wine, cocktails and snacks from Brulee Catering. There's also live entertainment on deck every week.
May 18, 5-9 p.m.
Parkway Central Library
1901 Vine St.
Pay as you go
facebook.com/freelibrary

FESTIVALS

Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival

Celebrate the food, drink and fashion destinations that make up one of our buzziest shopping and dining destinations at the annual Rittenhouse Row Spring Festival. Walnut Street will be packed between Broad and 19th streets (and even a few side streets along the way) as restaurants, boutiques and bars bring their goods out onto the sidewalks for revelers.
May 20, noon-5 p.m.
Walnut Street between Broad and 19th streets
Pay as you go
rittenhouserow.org

Italian Market Festival

One of Philly's largest and oldest block parties returns to the Italian Market Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Swing by for a taste of all the goodies the Italian Market has to offer — from Italian meats and oozy cheeses to an array of decadent desserts — and two full days of live entertainment and activities. **May 20-21, 3-7 p.m.**
Washington Avenue and South Ninth Street
Pay as you go
italianmarketfestival.com

All-Star Craft Beer & Wine Festival

The entire concourse of Citizens Bank Park plays home to what's being billed as Philadelphia's largest craft beer and wine festival ever. On top of more than 200 samples of beers and wines from around the world, your ticket grants you live mu-

MUSIC

Skating Polly

Tacoma's Skating Polly is a family affair, comprising step-sisters Kelli Mayo and Peyton Bighorse and their brother Kurtis Mayo. On their latest EP, "New Trick," the trio teamed up with Veruca Salt frontwomen Louise Post and Nina Gordon. The work is a rollicking yet melodic nod to the '70s punk and early-'90s alt-rock they grew up listening to. **May 20, 6 p.m. Kung Fu Necktie**
1250 N. Front St. $10, kungfunecktie.com

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EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

Camille Cogswell of Zahav

The James Beard finalist has quite the eclectic palate.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

Camille Cogswell got her start in the food industry as a high school student, when she worked at Bruegger's Bagels in Asheville, North Carolina. She went on to study at the Culinary Institute of America and spent time working in New York City's food scene before becoming the pastry chef at renowned Philadelphia restaurant Zahav. This year, she was even named a Rising Star Chef finalist for the James Beard Awards. When Cogswell is not whipping up tasty treats in the kitchen (like her signature Turkish coffee custard), she admits she loves dining out, enjoying everything from chicken liver toast to pho to British pie and mash.

Best late night meal?

Tai Lake (134 N. 10th St.). It's one of my favorite restaurants in Chinatown and an industry late-night favorite. Chinese food is so craveable after a long night of service. Be sure to include the stuffed hot pepper with minced shrimp in your order.

Best meal under $10?

South Philly Barbacoa (1703 S. 11th St.). The owners Christina and Ben are passionate and talented people. They only serve tacos (lamb or pork) and lamb consomme (a rich and delicious broth with rice and chickpeas), so both are absolute must-haves. You can get one taco and one bowl of consomme for $8, although it's so delicious you'll probably want more than that.

Best hidden foodie gem?

Aldine (1901 Chestnut St.). George Sabatino makes delicious, composed food and doesn't get nearly as much press as he should. The restaurant is also easy to miss because it's on the second floor of a building downtown in center city. Most of his menu changes every single day, but one of my favorites is his chicken liver toast. It's one of the best I've ever had.

Best place to dine alone?

Pho 75 (1122 Washington Ave.). Philly has great pho and this might be

GAY ROAD TRIPS

A. SINAGOGA FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

New Hope Pride Parade and Festival

Need a break from the city this weekend? Hop over to New Hope for one of the biggest hometown LGBT Pride festivals in the region. The quaint hamlet hosts its 14th annual Pride Parade, complete with a traveling 15-by-25-foot rainbow flag. After the procession, head to Logan Inn for live music and food and vendor booths at the Pride Fair from noon to 5 p.m. **May 20, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**
Main Street New Hope, Pay as you go, newhopecelebrates.com

sic, a chance to walk the bases down on the field and two tickets to a Phillies home game this season. **May 20, 3-7 p.m.**
Citizens Bank Park
1 Citizens Bank Way
$25-$70
ballparkfestival.com

SPOKES

Bike to Work Day

The Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia encourages commuters to skip the train and car ride to work Friday and pedal their way into the office instead. The annual Bike to Work Day promotes the myriad benefits of urban cycling — whether they be environmental or health-focused. Look out for various "Energizer Stations" set up around the city that day offering cyclists coffee, snacks and even a bouquet of flowers for their bike baskets. **May 19**
bicyclecoalition.org

KIDS

Philadelphia International Children's Festival

Treat your little ones to a whole bonanza of arts and entertainment at the Annenberg Center this weekend. The three-day International Children's Fair celebrates its 32nd anniversary with music and theater artists from around the world, including a performance of the "Peter Rabbit Tales" courtesy of Enchantment Theatre Company, a "Frozen" sing-along and a showcase by masked circus arts troupe BOOM! May **18-20**
Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
3680 Walnut St.
$12 and up
annenbergcenter.org

THEATER

"Dirty Dancing"

Nobody puts Baby in a corner! Beloved 1980 movie-musical classic "Dirty Dancing" gets stage treatment at the Kimmel Center starting this week. Tickets are selling like mad for the quick five-day performance, which features time-honored ditties from the film's soundtrack, like "Hungry Eyes," and "(I've Had) The Time of My Life." **Through May 21**
Merriam Theater
250 S. Broad St.
$40-$105
kimmelcenter.org

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the most-loved spot. It is soul-satisfying and an easy and quick stop-in meal on your way to or home from work. I get the No. 11 (slices of eye-round steak and well-done flank with your noodles and broth) and a Vietnamese iced coffee.

Place you always take or recommend for out-of-towners?

Stargazy (1838 E. Passyunk Ave.). British pie and mash shops are rare in the U.S. and this one is not only insanely delicious, but also run by the most lovable, quirky chef, Sam Jacobson. He has a few different types of meat pies every day, but I really love the sausage roll — a tasty meat tube of housemade pork and fennel sausage wrapped in the flakiest crust.

Go-to date spot, hands down?

Amis (412 S. 13th St.). It's my favorite Italian restaurant in town and perfect for all kinds of dates. It's lively, with a boisterous open kitchen and a large menu including the best pastas in Philly, in my opinion. Don't miss their signature bucatini with almond pesto and jalapeños.

Camille Cogswell is the pastry chef at Zahav. PROVIDED

Best place to catch up with friends?

Rooster Soup Co. (1526 Sansom St.). One of the new openings from our company, it's the type of diner that I've always craved since I moved to Philly. Retro vibes with a modern look and simple, delicious food. It's comfortable and casual, and 100 percent of the restaurant's profits go towards helping vulnerable Philadelphians in need through their collaboration with Broad Street Ministries. Order a combo, with smoked matzo ball soup and a bacon, latke and tomato sandwich.

Most Instagrammable restaurant?

Royal Sushi & Izakaya (780 S. Second St.). Jesse Ito, the chef there, is creating some super cool food here that I haven't seen anything like anywhere else in Philly. They have a superb, extensive beverage menu and amazing bar food in the form of Japanese small plates. He also recently opened a sushi counter in the back room. It's hard to play favorites here but you must try the nasu dengaku — Japanese eggplant glazed with sweet miso.

Sundays on Stage
A series of cultural programs featuring live performances by a variety of artists and entertainers. These family programs celebrate diversity through music, dance, storytelling, and more.

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Touch the sky in Pittsburgh

The theme of summer 2017 in the City of Champions is high-flying fun.

ED CONDRAN

Take the Duquesne Incline for a picturesque tour of the Pittsburgh skyline and great views at the top. DUQUESNE INCLINE

With apologies to Boston, Pittsburgh was the first City of Champions. Pennsylvania's rising city has been reaching for sporting glory since the Civil War and was the site of the first-ever football game in 1892.

Sitting at the intersection of three rivers also means Pittsburgh has tons of water-based sports. In August, both enthusiasts and professionals will come out to play during the annual Three Rivers Regatta, which will be held from Aug. 4-6.

Red Bull Flugtag

The festival's main event will be the **Red Bull Flugtag**, a unique and unpredictable event that would make the Wright brothers gasp. Every year, the brave competitors of Flugtag, which means "flying day" in German, have a chance to rewrite aviation history as their staggering variety of aircraft take off from the 22-foot-high "flight deck." Distance traveled, creativity of the craft and showmanship make up the criteria for Flugtag teams, with each event attracting up to 300,000 spectators.

The concepts are left of center at Flugtag, to say the least. In recent years, aviators have created flying tacos, pterodactyls and even Winnebagos with wings. Relatively conventional aircraft, such as Snoopy and his pals, have graced the skies as well.

Showmanship counts. Participants often sport outrageous costumes, create their own skits and make their own soundtracks.

Will the current world record of 258 feet set in 2013 in Long Beach, California, be eclipsed? Be in Pittsburgh on Aug. 5 to find out, when more than 40 teams will seek their fortunes in the sky — or meet a watery end.

Three Rivers Regatta

There is more to the weekend-long water festival than these gravity-defying daredevils. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the **Three Rivers Regatta**, with tons of powerboats providing plenty of high-speed action to spectators along Point State Park along with jet ski stunt shows, a music festival and a floating parade of lights after dusk.

When you're hungry, walk a short distance to Roberto Clemente Bridge, where an array of food trucks awaits with everything from Pittsburgh's signature pierogies to pizza. There will also be a marketplace and, to continue with the theme of hitting the heights, you can take a ride on the Wheel of Lights, a giant gondola Ferris wheel.

Meet Fawkes the golden pheasant at The National Aviary. FACEBOOK

Sightseeing from above

The best way to experience Pittsburgh is also from the sky, though not by flugtag. Head to the top of the city courtesy of its two funiculars. Board the **Duquesne Incline** for a spectacular view of the city's three rivers and more as the car clicks upward from Pittsburgh's Southside neighborhood. After peaking at 800 feet, step out and gaze at the stunning gateway to the city's Golden Triangle (more commonly known as the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh).

Back on the ground

If you would like to experience flight from another perspective, check out **The National Aviary**. The nation's only indoor nonprofit zoo is home to more than 500 birds, 150 of which are threatened or endangered. Don't miss the striking hyacinth macaw and the green-backed trogon, and of course the playful African penguins. Make some new friends in the lorikeet exhibit by purchasing a cup of nectar.

The tech-minded kids (and adults!) hang out at the **Carnegie Science Center**. The Sportsworks side of the facility offers nearly 30 interactive experiences in the categories of LifeWorks, Physics of Sports and Sports Challenge. Scale a 25-foot rock climbing wall, or don some serious climbing gear and hit the 21-foot zero gravity wall. If you love a thrill ride, hang on as you ride the simulated roller coasters.

The brave participants in the Red Bull Flugtag try to defy gravity with the most creativity possible. RED BULL CONTENT POOL

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Sicily is back on the map

The Italian island has plenty to lure food-loving travelers.

Fodor's Travel

For far too long, Sicily has received a bad rap, be it for its association with overly sweet Marsala cooking wine to its ties to the less-than-sweet mafia.

However, in recent years, this Mediterranean island located at Italy's southern tip has started to blossom as a food and wine destination that can compete with Tuscany and Rome. In fact, Sicily has become one of the country's leading wine producers and even has its share of Michelin-starred restaurants.

So grab your passport and *mangia*! Here's the ultimate food and wine lover's guide to Sicily.

Go on a food crawl through Palermo

No trip to Sicily would be complete without tasting some of the region's cuisine staples.

One of the best ways to try a little bit of everything is embarking on a food crawl through the city of Palermo. A few can't-miss Sicilian dishes include aracine, deep-fried rice balls stuffed with meat and cheese; capanota, an eggplant stew that's usually served as an appetizer; baked anelletti, essentially gourmet Spaghetti-Os; *pane con la milza*, a fried pork spleen and cheese sandwich; and a granita, a refreshing dessert that's a mix of shaved ice, sugar and fruit.

Several local outfitters offer daily food tours around the city. Another good way to eat your way through Sicily is by visiting one of its farmers markets. One of the largest ones is Mercato Ballaro and features dozens of vendors selling fresh produce, meat, spices, pastries and olive oil.

Take a day trip to Favignana Island

A short ferry ride from the city of Trapani is all it takes to reach Favignana, a commune that's part of the Aegadian Islands.

A day trip to Favignana Island is well worth it. Bring a picnic! MARTIN USSMYR, FLICKR

A longstanding tradition amongst Sicilians is, as soon as you disembark, to make a beeline for Bar du Marinaru, a no-frills espresso bar located steps away from the ferry landing, for a pistachio espresso. The layered drink is a Favignana original and has a base of vibrantly green pistachio cream.

Afterward, take a tour of Florio, a museum dedicated to the island's tuna industry, which was once one of the largest on the Mediterranean.

End the day at Caffe Aegusa and order a *gelato con brioche*, a gelato sandwich made with a brioche bun — a Sicilian specialty.

Destination dining

Helmed by self-taught Chef Pino Cuttaia, an ardent believer in using the freshest local produce and seafood in his dishes, the 40-seat Ristorante La Madia in the town of Licata has become the de facto restaurant for Sicilian cuisine. Over the years the restaurant has picked up its fair share of awards, namely two Michelin stars and a deserved spot on The World's 50 Best Restaurants list.

And while the menu can change based on Chef Pino's whims, he sticks to Sicilian classics infused with a twist, such as pinecone-smoked fish; an "anchovy painting" made with fresh anchovies, squid ink and tuna bottarga mayonnaise; and a "cloud of Caprese," a riff on the popular Italian dish but made with mozzarella foam that's encased in milk skin and served in a pool of plum tomato juice.

Spend the night at a vineyard

Located on a hillside deep in the Sicilian countryside about 60 miles west of the Sicilian capital of Palermo, Baglio Sorìa Resort & Wine Experience gives visitors the opportunity to experience wine from all angles.

Owned and operated by Firriato Winery, which has estates throughout Sicily and its neighboring island of Favignana, the resort offers a variety of tastings featuring wines made using native grapes, such as Nero d'Avola and Zibibbo; oenologist-led wine classes where you can learn master tasting tricks; pairing dinners; and tours of the resort's more than 270 acres of vineyards.

End a wine-soaked day by catching the sunset while sipping a wine cocktail at Sorìa Sky Lounge, an on-site patio bar overlooking vineyards and olive groves.

Planeta Estate also has a luxury wine resort where you can experience a property steeped in 500 years of farming and winemaking traditions.

Get on foot to see Palermo's sights as you eat your way across the city. MARCO DERKSEN, FLICKR

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Was the Sixers getting the third NBA Draft pick a good or bad thing?

The Sixers' NBA Draft spot is good, but not great.

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

The debate will linger for five weeks until the draft — but will Philly take a guard like De'Aaron Fox or a more highly-touted forward when they pick third? GETTY IMAGES

The reaction coming from the 76ers' camp was euphoric.

But a simple question must be asked.

Why?

The annual NBA draft lottery was held Tuesday night in New York City, and the Sixers came away with the No. 3 overall pick, the result of a 2015 trade with the Sacramento Kings. The Sixers would have received the fifth pick, but that trade allowed them to move up two spots.

But the Los Angeles Lakers earned the No. 2 position, so they'll keep the protected pick. The Sixers can grab the Lakers' pick after next season and it's unprotected.

There's good news for the Sixers, yet they could have walked away with Nos. 1 and 4. Instead, they left with the No. 3 overall choice, meaning they'll likely miss out on Washington point guard Markelle Fultz and UCLA guard Lonzo Ball.

Yes, it was a good night. Euphoric? Hardly.

Adding a piece like Kansas' Josh Jackson or Kentucky's De'Aaron Fox will help this young team. It may be enough to push for a playoff spot in the less talented Eastern Conference. There will surely be more growing pains.

Don't plan that parade down Broad Street just yet.

"Tonight was a great night as we continue to build our team into a contender," Sixers President of Basketball Operations Bryan Colangelo said. "There really was no way to walk out of here disappointed given the possible outcomes we faced. We'll now zero in and focus on drafting a quality player at No. 3 who adds to our dynamic young core. We also now have clarity that we'll have a 2018 unprotected pick from the Lakers."

For the fourth straight year, the Sixers will select a player in the top three. Whomever the Sixers take next month will join Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and possibly Jahlil Okafor if they opt to retain him.

Embiid played 31 sensational games last season. Competing in 31 out of 82 games isn't enough.

Simmons played zero games after suffering a foot injury in training camp.

The newest Sixer will be a rookie.

And the Sixers have four second-round picks as a result of prior trades with the Dallas Mavericks, Atlanta Hawks and Utah Jazz. It's rare that you'll find a player like Isaiah Thomas with the 60th pick. Look for the Sixers to stash a player, or multiple players, overseas like they did with Furkan Korkmaz.

The Sixers will reshape its roster for next season, and it will be much improved on paper. They must stay healthy. Repeat. They must stay healthy. Repeat. They must stay healthy.

Coach Brett Brown will begin his fifth season with the most talent ever to work with. It's not championship-level talent just yet. It could be playoff level talent. Who knows?

The Process will continue the next couple of years with the Lakers' pick next season and the Kings' pick in 2019. The patient fan base will have to remain patient for at least a couple more years.

The product on the court should be much more thrilling in 2017-18. Beyond that, expectations need to be tapered. There's still a long, long way to go.

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Don't be surprised if the Sixers become quite active on the trade market this summer. GETTY IMAGES

NBA rumors: Sixers could trade Lakers' 2018 pick for Russell

The Lakers won the second pick in the NBA draft after a successful lottery showing this week, and will in all liklihood draft 6-foot-6 point guard stud Lonzo Ball from up the road at UCLA after Markelle Fultz comes off the board No. 1.

But the team already has a big second-overall picked point guard on the roster in D'Angelo Russell (6-foot-5).

Could L.A. thrive with a Russell/Ball backcourt? Or is Russell expendable?

According to Sports Illustrated, the Lakers have been fielding trade offers from several teams for the guard, who has averaged 14.3 points per game over 28 minutes per game through two seasons in Southern California. There would not only be more playing time available for the guard elsewhere, but he might fit in better in a new environment.

Enter the Sixers, who will draft just behind L.A. on June 22 with the No. 3 pick. Philly has Ben Simmons set to run the point as a point-forward hybrid. But the team was drooling over Fultz and won't be able to get a true scoring point guard unless they draft De'Aaron Fox — which might be a stretch at the third spot with forward prospects Josh Jackson and Jason Tatum expect to be picked around third.

Philly happens to hold the Lakers pick in 2018, unprotected after the pick failed to transfer to the Sixers with protections in 2017. Perhaps the Sixers could get its point guard by sending L.A. its 2018 pick back, a couple of its four second rounders in 2017, or even Jahlil Okafor, who continues to be the subject of trade rumors. Which would allow Philly to take the best available player and not worry about getting a guard in a guard-loaded draft. EVAN MACY

Eagles shore up running back position by signing Blount to one-year deal

The Eagles will have a dynamic, power running back in 2017.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

LeGarrette Blount will make $1.25 million before incentives in 2017. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles took their time, but they finally made a splash at running back.

Instead of pursuing a big-name veteran like Adrian Peterson, Jamaal Charles or Eddie Lacy — and instead of drafting a Dalvin Cook or Joe Mixon — Philly chilled out and went with a late-round low-key move to select Donnel Pumphrey and nothing else.

Until Wednesday.

The Eagles officially announced they had signed former Patriots running back LeGarrette Blount to a one-year deal, adding a big, bruising down-hill runner to a youthful backfield. The deal is reportedly worth up to $2.8 million and is heavily incentive-based.

The veteran presence of Blount, 30, will likely be just as valuable as his potential performance as he attempts to replicate a season from 2016 that led all runners in touchdowns with 18. He also eclipsed the 1,100 yard mark as the Pats won the Super Bowl, his second as a player.

"LeGarrette Blount is a tough, physical runner who has enjoyed a great deal of success in New England and we are excited about adding him to this football team," said Howie Roseman, Eagles executive vice president of football operations. "We feel good about the depth and competition that we have created at the running back position and we are looking forward to getting the guys out on the field next week for OTAs."

Behind Bount will be Pumphrey, Wendell Smallwood, Byron Marshall and Darren Sproles, another experienced veteran back but obviously a much different kind of runner. Sproles is expected to retire after 2017.

The Eagles still have Ryan Mathews under contract but can save $4 million by cutting him, and will likely do so now as he continues to recover from offseason surgery.

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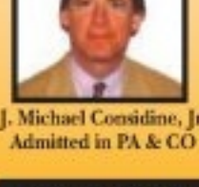

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67 Tweeted
68 Cut off
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Down
1 Cologne fragrance
2 School near Windsor Castle
3 Scrabble playing piece
4 Beatles' "-- Rigby"
5 Fly-catching birds
6 House lot
7 Ad -- (wing it)
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9 Scatterbrains
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12 Type of eagle
13 Pored over
21 Mr. Hammarskjold
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27 Low dice roll
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30 More than adequately
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55 Liver secretion
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57 Ali who said "Open sesame!"
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59 Nasty cut
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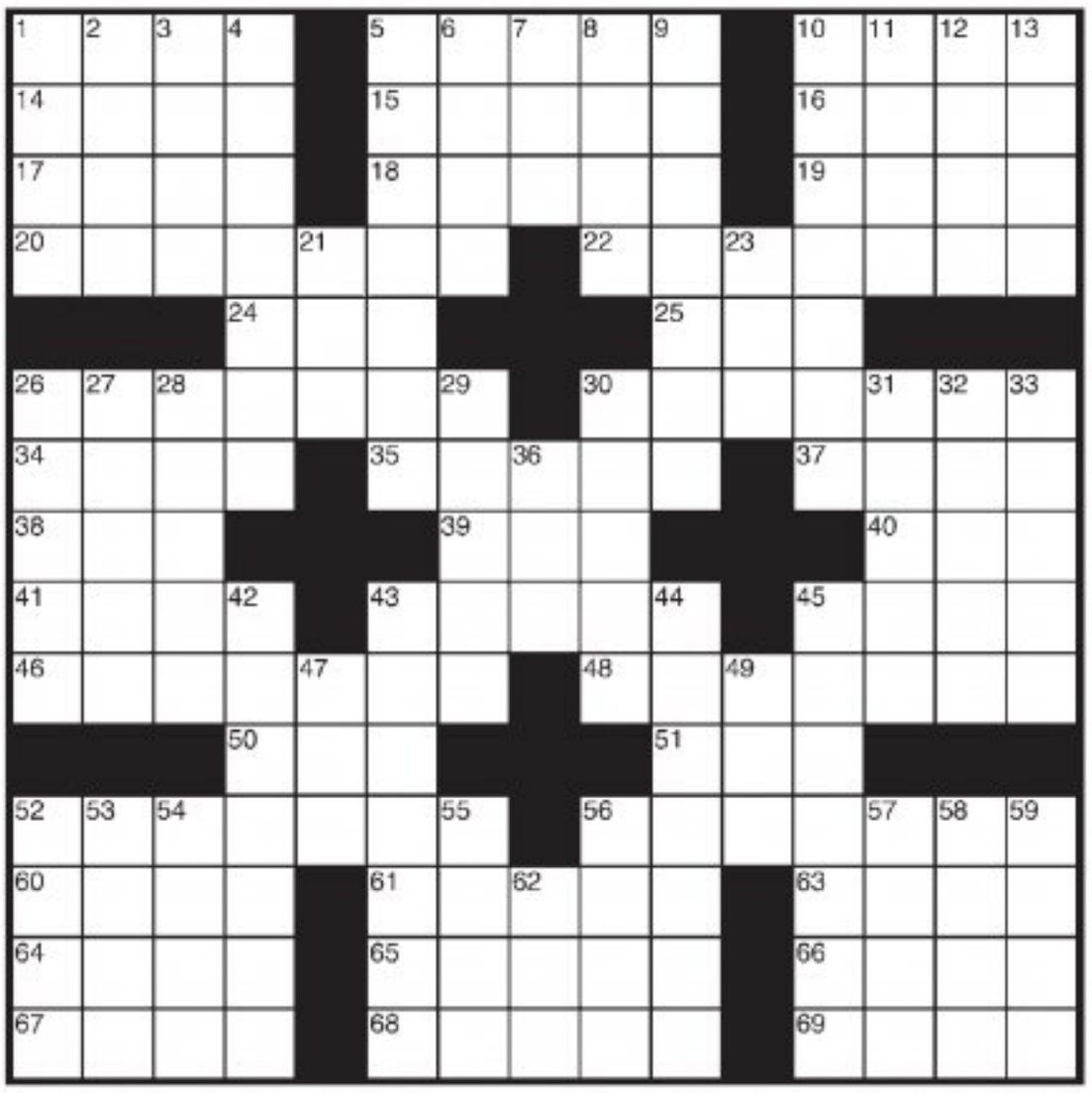

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easy

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			4		5			
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		5				8		

hard

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		6			1			5
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	5	4				9	7	1
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				1				

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Do something energetic that will make you feel alive. Exercise and a proper diet, along with doing whatever you can to help others, will enhance your reputation.

Taurus Don't leave anything unfinished, or criticism can be expected. Stay focused on what's important in order to get ahead and enhance your reputation.

Gemini You may not get what you expect. Take a moment to gather your thoughts and consider what you can change in order to ensure the results you want.

Cancer Use your intelligence and look for alternatives if you aren't happy with the way things are going. Don't feel that you must conform to uncomfortable procedures.

Leo Personal growth will help you the most. Trying to work in conjunction with others will be difficult. Your important relationships will require nurturing, not criticism.

Virgo Rise above any emotional uncertainty you face and throw your energy into accomplishing the things that will help you improve your strengths.

Libra Join in, be a participant and enjoy what life has to offer. Entertainment, a shopping trip or a brief outing will prompt you to make personal changes.

Scorpio Don't get sucked into an emotional disagreement that would leave you in a precarious position. If you bide your time, you will come up with a workable solution.

Sagittarius A little charm and enthusiasm and a few compliments will help you get your way. Take advantage of an opportunity to engage in making business deals.

Capricorn A soft approach when dealing with others will help you avoid being called insensitive. Walking away from a situation gracefully will help keep the peace.

Aquarius Dream it and make it happen. Take control and make the changes that you want to see happen in your life. Love and romance are encouraged.

Pisces Taking a short trip or visiting an old friend will give you a different perspective on who you have become and the direction you want to go. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

T	S	A	R		R	A	V	E	L		M	I	N	K
H	U	M	E		E	L	O	P	E		O	R	A	L
A	L	O	E		V	A	L	E	T		H	O	N	E
T	U	R	Q	U	O	I	S	E		C	A	N	O	E
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S	P	L	I	N	T	S		D	E	S	K	T	O	P
C	O	O	P	S		N	O	O	N		S	O	F	A
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M	A	T	A		H	E	R	O		A	S	T	E	R
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